A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

Connections

December 2010

Kevin Keith Named Director of MoDOT

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission has selected Kevin Keith as Director of MoDOT. Keith has served as the department s interim director since April and has been chief engineer of MoDOT for nine years. He has been with the department for more than 25 years.

"Kevin Keith is a proven leader," said MHTC Chairman Rudy Farber. "He has been instrumental in the dramatic improvement of MoDOT and has been recognized for his innovative leadership at the national level. We have full confidence in his ability to tackle the significant transportation challenges Missouri faces in the coming years."

Keith is nationally recognized for his innovative efforts implementing "Practical Design" a no-frills approach enabling MoDOT to satisfy customer needs while saving money to put toward more transportation improvements. Practical Design has saved Missouri taxpayers more than $1 billion and has been adopted in numerous other states.

Before becoming chief engineer, he served as transportation planning director and, prior to that, as district engineer for MoDOT s Northwest District headquartered in St. Joseph. He has also worked in Branson, St. Louis and Chillicothe during his tenure with MoDOT.

Keith was sworn in Nov. 4 at MoDOT's Central Office building.

Cathy Morrison

Kevin Keith (left) speaks at a news conference announcing his appointment as MoDOT's new director by the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission. MHTC Commissioners pictured are (left to right) Kenneth Suelthaus, Rudy Farber, Lloyd Carmichael and Grace Nichols.

Progress, Funding Woes Cited in Director's Annual Report to Legislature

by Sally Oxenhandler

In one of his first official capacities as MoDOT's new director, Kevin Keith appeared before the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight on Nov. 4 to present the department's annual accountability report.

Keith told the legislative panel that MoDOT is accountable to the public it serves and trusted by most Missourians, but is underfunded. Today 86 percent of the state's major roads are in good condition and highway deaths are the lowest they've been since 1950. Progress in those areas has had a positive effect on customer satisfaction, which is at 83 percent. In addition, 92 percent of Missourians trust MoDOT to keep its commitments.

"With these accomplishments we have seen vast improvements in our transportation system leading to dramatically improved public perceptions of MoDOT," Keith said. "Still, we face big issues in transportation."

Keith cited progress the department had made in the past year - such as adding more than 100 miles of new highway lanes to the state's transportation system - that the department will be unable to accomplish in coming years.

He told the legislative committee that innovative transportation solutions have helped the department get the most bang for its buck. The design-build concept, which is being used to repair or replace hundreds of state bridges in poor condition, has been especially successful in enabling MoDOT to complete projects quickly and within budget.

In addition, MoDOT recently completed its third diverging diamond interchange, an award-winning transportation tool that moves traffic faster, is safer and costs less to build than a traditional interchange.

"The results MoDOT has produced in the last five years have been tremendous," said Sen. Bill Stouffer, vice-chair of the committee.

But with funding for the state's construction program falling, the department must modify its operations, Keith said. For the last five years, the construction program has averaged $1.25 billion a year; for the next five years, it will average just $500 million a year. As a result, MoDOT is shrinking its work force, cutting spending and reducing services in order to meet the commitments of its five-year direction implemented in March.

"Our goals for the next five years include honoring the commitments in our construction program, keeping major roads in good condition, improving minor roads, holding our own on bridges and providing outstanding customer service," Keith said. "This is what Missourians expect and deserve, and we are committed to making the best use of our resources to make it happen."

The department's full report to the Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight, including an executive summary, can be found at *www.modot.org*.

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MoDOT Provides Road Map for Chinese Freight Partnership

by Dr. Ernie Perry, photos by Shaun Schmitz

For Missouri-based businesses, national and even international business, the quality and reliability of the available transportation system is key for the decision on the business location. To attract and retain businesses in the State, we must live our mission statement; we must provide a world class transportation system, one that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

The math is simple: An efficient, reliable transportation system means better customer access, a lower cost of operations and greater reliability. These lead to profits and growth for the business.

As a member of the Midwest China Hub Commission, MoDOT hosted Chinese government officials and aviation industry representatives at the District 6 Transportation Management Center on Nov. 1. The delegation visited the St Louis area to evaluate the transportation and freight moving abilities of the Lambert-St. Louis International Airport and the surrounding transportation system. The focus of the China hub project is to attract and develop a Chinese-Missouri trade link that results in increased freight exports to a growing Asian market. Dr. Ernie Perry, MoDOT's freight development administrator, characterized the delegation's visit as a first for the department.

"In a sense, we are marketing the St Louis region and the airport as a freight hub based on the quality, the reliability, and the modal breadth of our transportation system," said Perry. "We are developing a 'brand name' for Missouri and our brand says - reliable, efficient and quality transportation."

Chinese officials tour the D6 Transportation Management Center.

The Chinese delegation faces some tough choices in their location decision. Key cities such as Chicago, Dallas, Memphis and Miami are all competing for additional business from China. To help sell St Louis and Missouri to the Chinese delegation, Multimodal Operations, District 6, Organizational Results, Transportation Planning, and the College of Engineering at University of Missouri teamed up to provide a half-day transportation asset showcase of the St Louis region and Missouri for the Chinese Officials.

District 6 spared no effort in welcoming the Chinese delegation. Upon arrival at the District 6 Traffic Management Center, the delegation was greeted at the entrance by the Motorist Assist personnel and their sparkling fleet of trucks. As they entered the management center, the delegation was then greeted by MoDOT employees who welcomed the delegation in Chinese with, "你好." Roughly translated, this means "hello, welcome."

District 6 welcomes the Chinese delegation: "你好," roughly translated, means "hello, welcome."

Ed Hassinger and Chunlei Wang welcome the Chinese delegation to St Louis.

Brian Weiler and Yanfang Yue provide an overview of freight transportation assets in Missouri.

The group then got down to business with presentations that outlined the multimodal transportation capabilities of the region by Multimodal Operations Division Director Brian Weiler and Transportation Performance Analyst Yanfang Yue, and District 6 Engineer Ed Hassinger and Transportation Project Designer Chunlei Wang. Yue and Wang, Chinese-born MoDOT employees, not only provided interpretation services during the visit but co-presented the materials with Weiler and t Hassinger. Following the presentation, Assistant District 6 Engineer Tom Blair provided tours of the traffic management center and simulated a traffic incident so the capabilities of the MoDOT traffic management technologies could be demonstrated.

"It was a unique and great opportunity for MoDOT to be a part of," said Blair. "It was very exciting and well received when our Chinese employees got involved and actually presented to the delegation."

Weiler reflected that the day could not have gone any better.

"It was truly a team effort and several of the VIPs and China hub members commented that MoDOT's presentation on the Missouri transportation system was exactly what the delegation wanted to see, and that the state of Missouri's transportation system was just outstanding," said Weiler.

As a member of the Midwest China Hub Commission, MoDOT's role in hosting the delegation was an overwhelming success. The Chinese delegation stated that they are impressed with the quality and reliability of Missouri's transportation system. While St Louis and Missouri officials await the decision to locate a Chinese freight hub at Lambert, Missouri's top ranked transportation system impressed the delegation and will be a major factor in this global business location decision.

Dear Team MoDOT:

With the holidays fast approaching, I want to wish you all a happy and safe season, and a great new year.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication in 2010. I look forward to working together to provide outstanding customer service and the best transportation system possible in 2011.

Sincerely,
Kevin Keith

MoDOT Takes Home Two Governor Awards

Diverging Diamond Interchange Wins First Pinnacle Award

The first diverging diamond interchange in the nation and efforts to improve service to Missouri s motor carriers have earned MoDOT two Governor s Awards for Quality and Productivity. The awards recognize the efforts of state employee work groups in continuous improvement, quality and productivity in Missouri state government.

Cathy Morrison

Front row (l-r): Office of Administration Commissioner Kelvin Simmons, MoDOT Chief Financial Officer Roberta Broeker, Connie Wilson, Becky Goad. Second row (l-r): Angela Eden, Stacy Reese, Mike Hodges, MHTC Commissioner Joe Carmichael. Third row (l-r): District 8 Engineer Kirk Juranas, Chad Daniel, Don Saiko, Johnny Teegardin. Back row (l-r): Joe Rickman, Frank Miller, Ron Effland, Jason Evenden. Not Pictured: John Avers, Jim McDiarmid, Matt Seiler, Leo Cologna, Ray Cook, Bob Edwards, Lisa Mattocks, Andy Mueller.

MoDOT opened the first diverging diamond interchange in the nation at the intersection of Route 13 and Interstate 44 in Springfield in June 2009. The interchange allows traffic to move faster, reduces congestion, increases safety and saves money. Because the project encompassed all of the award categories and exceeded all other nominations, the selection committee gave it the first ever Pinnacle Award.

In the customer service category, MoDOT s Motor Carrier Services Division was honored for its efforts to automate and streamline business processes and improve customer service to motor carriers who must get credentials and permits to conduct business in Missouri. The division has a 95.7 percent customer satisfaction rating.

Cathy Morrison

Motor Carrier Services Director Jan Skouby accepts the Governor's Award for Quality and Productivity from Office of Administration Commissioner Kelvin Simmons.

Employees Prepare for Winter with TowPLow Training

by Melissa Black

As part of MoDOT's commitment to using its resources wisely, snow plow operators are getting additional training on the TowPLow to ensure they are using this equipment as safely and efficiently as possible.

"Plowing snow is a very big challenge and consumes a lot of time, fuel and other resources," says MoDOT State Maintenance Engineer Jim Carney. "With our larger plows, TowPLows and additional training, we can save time and resources, while making roadways safe for motorists."

The TowPLow is a 26-foot plow created in Missouri, but is now used in 10 other states besides Missouri and parts of Canada. It is designed to trail behind a standard plowing truck and can clear two traffic lanes at one time, the same as two standard snowplows. The department has 65 of these being used in all areas of the state on multi-lane highways.

"This training gave over 250 MoDOT s employees, including one district engineer, the necessary background on how to operate the TowPLows safely and efficiently during winter events," says Mike Shea, Maintenance liaison engineer. "The TowPLow trailer is fast becoming an essential tool to supplement MoDOT s fleet of snow plow trucks in fighting winter storms."

The department began the training in early October. The day focuses on three objectives: safety procedures, pre-trip inspections and general operation. Part of the training includes a hands-on session where each participant maneuvers the TowPLow through an obstacle course. The course is designed to familiarize the participant on how to operate the TowPLow on the highway, through interchanges, intersections, around abandoned vehicles and other obstacles.

"By taking the training, snow plow operators will learn how to use the TowPLow on the highways with greater efficiency and reduce the time to clear the highways," Shea says.

Earlier this year, MoDOT's TowPLow was chosen to be a focus technology by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Technology Implementation Group. Besides being a great honor, this means MoDOT can help educate other states about using the TowPLow as well.

More than 250 employees were provided training on the TowPLow.

Signing Operations Taking a Detour

by Sandra Hentges and Melissa Black

To help redirect additional funding into achieving the five-year direction, MoDOT's statewide signing program will take a bit of a detour in the coming months. Since the 1920s, MoDOT has been making signs for state roads from one central location in Jefferson City.

"Sign sizes have increased over the years due to larger letters to benefit older drivers. Even though we will continue to provide visible signs for driver safety, we will do it more efficiently while reducing inventory and costs," says Eileen Rackers, state Traffic engineer.

One of the first cost-saving strategies in place is to decide when to replace signs. Signs will be inspected annually at night to check their condition and ensure they are still readable even in the dark. If they are in poor condition, they will be replaced. Some signs will be designed to fit existing bases so that we don't have to replace both the sign and the base. Approximately 50 signs have also been identified as unnecessary and most likely will not be replaced at the end of their life.

Crews will also be sharing resources to save money. Signing crews will also be performing striping operations so they can share resources more efficiently. When large equipment is necessary for sign replacement, it will be scheduled and shared between districts, to improve the use of this equipment statewide.

Some additional changes that will allow savings include using wood posts on lower-volume roads and reducing the inventory of signs and posts. The department is in the process of consolidating and reducing this inventory, and will use a sign management system to streamline the future ordering process for signs. Before a sign is ordered though, it will be determined if the sign exists in inventory.

"Our in-house sign shop has always been a cost-saver for Missouri," Rackers says. "Over the years, many things may have changed from better equipment and materials to how we recycle reclaimed aluminum, but we've always been focused on saving money. We are taking the opportunity now to tighten up all of our signing operations for the benefit of pavement maintenance in the next few years."

Missouri Remembers the Human Toll

by Revee White

Missouri will remember the human toll of impaired driving by hosting a Remembrance Day at the Missouri State Capitol on Dec. 9 at 11 a.m.

Victims' families and friends, safety groups and state leaders are invited to remember the individuals who were taken away from their loved ones because another individual made the irresponsible and criminal decision to drive impaired.

This memorial serves as an opportunity to remind Missourians to plan ahead during the holidays by driving sober, serving as or designating a sober driver or calling a taxi or other safe ride.

Law enforcement officers will be out in full force, aggressively removing drunk drivers through sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols Dec. 6-12.

In 2009, 280 people were killed and 1,140 seriously injured in crashes involving an impaired driver.

Visit the Human Toll facebook page at *www.facebook.com/humantoll* to share your story of how impaired driving has affected your life or the life of someone you love.

ShareLeave
Employees helping employees!

Please help your fellow employees today!

Visit *wwwi/intranet/shareleave*

Results are in!

The 2010 employee satisfaction survey results are now available at *http://wwwi/intranet/hr/employee satisfaction.htm.*

Questions or Comments? Send an e-mail to *EmpSatSur@modot.mo.gov*

December Service Anniversaries

35 Years

Barry M. Bergman	D6

25 Years

Drake D. Tarpley	D1
Robert W. Stone	D1
Edward A. Montgomery	D1
Mark E. Giessinger	D3
Rodney L. Osbourne	D3
Robert N. Davidson	D3
Dianna L. Johnson	D5
Donald E. Duclos	D6
Joseph H. Wilde	D6
Daryl L. Swindle	D6
Ronald W. Blakley	D7
Mike G. Metcalf	D8
Curtis W. Richter	D9
Ronald Ballew	D10

20 Years

Joseph T. Cooper	D1
Beth A. Page	D3
Sherita C. White	D4
Kent Howard	D5
Jon P. Miller	D5
Richard W. Barnes	D7
Deryle G. Potter	D8
Jesse L. Earls	D9
Paul J. Bollinger	D9
Philip E. Morgan	CO
Stephanie L. Green	CO
Diane M. Haslag	CO
Mary L. Kladiva	CO

15 Years

Robert E. Lockard	D2
Ellen Gehringer	D2
Matthew Golian	D3
Richard W. Sanders	D3
Ronald H. Rothove	D5
Michael R. Kempker	D5
Donald E. Maxwell	D6
Gary M. Ragan	D7
Kevin W. Hageman	D8
Dennis S. Austin	D8
Brian L. McMillian	D9
Steven D. Mayberry	D9
Chris E. Berry	D9
Randall D. Lea	D9
Stanley S. Snider	D10
Connie P. Robinson	D10
Mary B. Miller	CO

10 Years

John C. Shrewsbury	D1
Kevin D. Johnson	D1
Marisa L. Ellison	D3
Teresa G. Martin	D4
Bradley W. Kelley	D4
Jason T. Nilges	D5
Troy A. Minnick	D5
Stanley H. Williams	D6
Gail J. Cutts	D6
Jerry A. Lewis	D6
Donald W. Harmon	D6
William F. Bernsen	D6
Randy W. Dorner	D6
Randall K. Coffey	D7
Jeffery A. Keeven	D9
Jeffrey W. Allen	D9
Charles R. Robinson	CO
Gari L. Luttrell	CO
John D. Hayden	CO
Carissa N. Hutson	CO
Tina R. Thurman	CO
Bridget D. Althoff	CO

5 Years

David C. Dwyer	D1
Mike L. Cline	D1
Christopher L. Smith	D1
Brian K. Iles	D4
Michael R. Atteberry	D4
Fred E. Scott	D4
Russell D. Rentel	D5
Allen J. Wilson	D5
Glenn L. Copeland	D6
Todd A. Dettling	D6
Douglas C. Martin	D7
Bruce W. Farris	D7
Aaron J. Howard	D9
Troy A. Gilley	D9
Jason E. McKee	D10
Donald L. Terbrak	D10
Travis S. Stump	CO
Rose A. Cooper	CO
Ashley L. Halford	CO
Tommy D. Caudle	CO

In Memoriam

Retirees

Walter E. Bishop	D4	Oct. 3
Milton P. Barnes	D7	Oct. 4
Herman G. Smith	D5	Oct. 6
Paul H. Kammerich	D4	Oct. 11
William G. Livers	D6	Oct. 12
Donald D. Proffitt	D3	Oct. 18
Troy Caldwell	D5	Oct. 19
Donald L. Williams	D10	Oct. 27
Cecil E. Clark	CO	Oct. 28
John D. Henley	CO	Oct. 28

October Retirements

Name	Location	Years of Service
Thomas Jenkins	D10	26
Linda Klaproth	D10	19
Douglas Brown	D1	33
Michael Porter	D2	32
Jackie Davis	D4	36
Michael Devero	D4	5
Charles Potter	D4	29
Everett Jewett	D4	31
Larry Boeschen	D4	14
Michael Jones	D4	21
Joe Taylor	D5	31
Betty Berhorst	D5	4
Michael Kiso	D5	28
Dorothy Anton	D6	21
Gary Peel	D6	31
Glen Kester	D7	21
Rebecca Herron	D7	17
Toby McHaffie	D8	26
Brenda Gonten	D8	23
Sherry Nelson	D8	23
Linda Henderson	CO	21

CO
Central Office

Under the Bus

Assistant Motor Carrier Services Director Michelle Teel participated in a top-to-bottom inspection of a Branson motor coach.

What is it like to be underneath a 17-ton bus, with the massive vehicle only inches from your face? Michelle Teel has had the chance to find out.

In October, Teel, assistant motor carrier services director, had the opportunity to join MoDOT MCS Safety and Compliance investigators on a Motor Coach Inspection Program in Branson, seeing firsthand how motor carriers in Missouri are kept compliant with safety standards.

"I've always wanted to participate," said Teel. "It was incredible, to be underneath a huge bus and have it inches from your nose. From brakes to fuel lines to tires -- the investigative team does a top to bottom inspection."

The Motor Carriers division performs multiple checks on buses throughout the year. With so many carriers bringing travelers to Branson in the fall, the destination provides an ideal opportunity for organized inspections. The program is so successful in Missouri, that many carriers report that they send their best buses and drivers when visiting the Show-Me State.

It all starts with the roper. One person from the inspection team "ropes" the buses in after they have dropped passengers off at a location in Branson, such as one of the shows. The roper directs the buses from different destinations to the inspection location. Buses are then inspected and released in time to pick up their passengers coming out of the show or other destination.

Teel had a unique experience in that the very first bus on her trip was taken out of service for a faulty tire. However, the inspection team is prepared for such events, and has a list of places to recommend to carriers where they can address any problem found and still stay on course for their travelers. If needed, alternate transportation is found for the passengers.

"Our first and foremost goal is the safety of the passengers," said Chuck Gohring, motor carrier investigations administrator. "We make sure passengers have alternate transportation."

Partners in the investigations include the St. Louis Police Department, the Kansas City Police Department and the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Other locations for inspections throughout the year include Worlds of Fun in Kansas City and Lambert Airport in St. Louis.

MoDOT Hosts Local Learning in Retirement Group

by Sally Oxenhandler

In October, MoDOT Central Office was privileged to host 31 members of the local Learning in Retirement group for a four-week informational course on transportation issues and topics. Learning in Retirement is affiliated with Lincoln University and works to provide continuing learning opportunities for retirees and seniors. Bob Irvin, a MoDOT retiree, and his wife, Ginny, coordinated the effort.

The course was titled MoDOT: Past, Present and Future and took participants through the history of our department all the way up to our five-year direction. On the way they learned about our planning process, how we select projects, other modes of transportation, statewide funding efforts and the status of local projects.

Speakers included Jane Reed, former MoDOT historian; Bob Reeder, historic preservation manager, Bob Brendel, outreach coordinator for Design; Machelle Watkins, Transportation Planning director; Brian Weiler, Multimodal Division director and Roger Schwartze, district engineer, Central District. Jewell Patek with the Missouri Transportation Alliance also spoke to the group. The last session featured a tour of the Sign Shop and the Construction and Materials laboratories.

Shaun Schmitz

Sign Shop Superintendent Terry Baker (right) and Senior Supply Agent Keith Jacobsen provided a tour of the Sign Shop to the Learning in Retirement group.

"It was well done and well received," said June Glaser, the Learning in Retirement curriculum chair.

for more info

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D1 Northwest

Events of Last Month

by M. Elaine Justus

M. Elaine Justus

People from all over the Northwest District came to the St. Joseph YMCA to "Zumba" for Madeline Tolliver.

On Oct. 2, a group of Zumba exercise enthusiasts joined together at the YMCA in St. Joseph to help raise money for Madeline Tolliver. Kathy Null, sr. financial services specialist in Business & Benefits, is a certified Zumba instructor. Kathy led the group in two one-hour sessions that afternoon. The benefit raised money to help Madeline Tolliver, who worked in Business and Benefits until April, when the doctors told her she could no longer work due to her health. She is currently on dialysis, on a transplant list and waiting for a kidney.

Corporate merger? MoDOT senior construction inspector marries contractor's employee.

Becky Baker is now Becky Wilson. On Sept. 25, Becky married Jeff Wilson at the Lathrop Methodist Church. In the picture above, the best man is Jeremy Wilson, brother of the groom, the matron of honor is Kathy Brown, friend of bride and construction inspector from the St. Joseph office, the ring bearer is the son of the bride, the flower girls are nieces of the groom. Jeff is employed by Loch Sand Construction Co. The couple now lives in Cameron, where they can share stories about construction.

Senior Highway Designer Brian Rosenthal goes bananas.

The newspaper headline read, "The Tropics of St. Joe - Local man grows bananas in his yard." Imagine our surprise to see Senior Highway Designer Brian Rosenthal pictured next to a 17-foot plant. It's actually a plantain, not a banana, and one of several that he grows. He wraps them in plastic and puts them in his basement during the winter.

Diane Sipes

Twenty-three employees were recognized for their five years of service at a breakfast held Oct. 26.

Diane Sipes

Twenty-one employees were recognized for their ten years of service on Oct. 26.

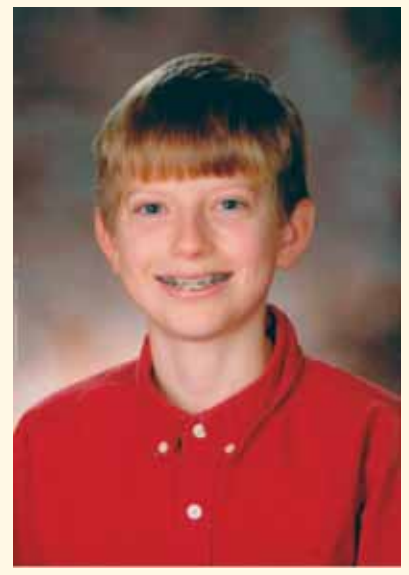
Diane Sipes

Twenty employees were recognized for their fifteen years of service on Oct. 26.

Holly L. Murphy

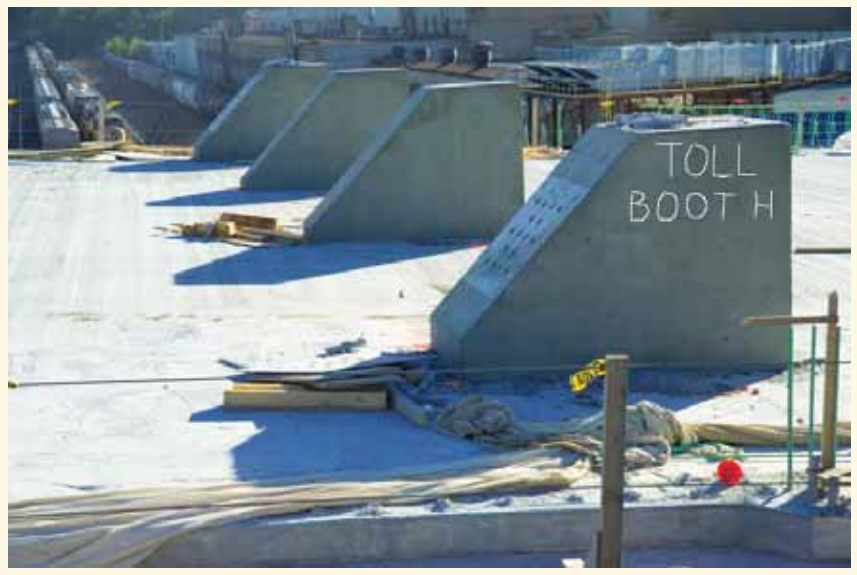
Assistant District Maintenance and Traffic Engineer Adam Watson and Transportation Project Manager Wes Moore visited with St. Joseph students at Webster Learning Center in October. The pair discussed bridges and had the opportunity to review the students' bridge designs.

Pictured at the right is Alexander Moore at age 14, but he's 17 now . He is the son of Transportation Project Manager Wes Moore pictured above . Alexander recently competed in and won the 12th grade division at the 2010 Missouri Grade State Chess Championship held at the University of Missouri-Columbia. This is not his first win. He has taken first place in his division for the last two years, and has participated in the U.S. Chess Federation National Tournament. He is a senior this year and plans to become an engineer like his Dad.



The View From the Road

by M. Elaine Justus



Jon Morrow

A toll booth on the new Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge? NO!

The telephone in the MoDOT office started ringing almost immediately the morning of Oct. 27. It seems the contractor on the new Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge had built some very sturdy looking concrete forms at regular intervals on the new deck. That was surprising enough, but someone had written the words "TOLL BOOTH" on one of the forms The public and the media both picked up on it about the same time and it took several phone calls and e-mails to explain that the forms were temporary structures needed to construct the tied arch for the bridge, and that someone on the construction crew had a very, very wicked sense of humor.

for more info

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D2 NorthCentral

A Look Back at 2010

by Tammy Wallace

There were many topics to discuss at this year's employee fall meetings, but of all the presentations given, one in particular has become an annual favorite, the District's Top 10. This presentation highlights the district accomplishments over the past year.

#10 - First time in the district, 100 percent CPR certified.

#10 - 100 percent CPR Certified
For the first time in the district's history, and actually the first time in any district, every employee was certified in CPR, and the training was not mandatory. This was accomplished by the dedication of the CPR trainers and employees working together.

#9 - Partnering Solutions
The district teamed with cities, counties and businesses to bring improvements to several communities. Just some of the improvements were: Turning lanes added on Route 65 to the Barton Creek Campus in Trenton, more turning lanes added to Saline Route 65 and Carroll Route 24 and 65, Route 24 was resurfaced and turning lanes added through Moberly, and intersection improvements were made to Route 65 in Marshall and Chillicothe.

#07 - Teamwork means success for the LowP in-house deck overlay.

#05 - Emergency Response to Grand River Bridge.

Two projects were done with our own forces, a sidewalk project in the small town of Bevier, and an old narrow concrete bridge on Route 5 in Sullivan County was removed and replaced with two 9' diameter tubes.

#8 - Alternate Route 63 Contract Awarded - The south portion of the Alternate Route 63 around the City of Kirksville was awarded. A value engineering study changed the alignment of this section of the project, saving nearly $44 million dollars.

#7 - Bridge Maintenance - Innovative Solutions LowP and Overcoming Adversity
First in-house deck overlay using a LowP quick-setting concrete and hydro-demolition to repair a bridge, the second district in the state to use the process. The hydro-demolition was contracted, then district crews mixed the overlay on sight with portable mixers and laid the deck. This project was the ultimate example of teamwork, with several work units joining forces to make this project a success.

Additionally, District crews faced many emergency culvert replacements this year due to heavy rainfall and flooding.

#4 - The new Missouri River Bridge at Miami.

#06 - Route 65 Improvements, Chillicothe to Iowa
The work to improve the Route 65 corridor continued this year with the resurfacing of 52 miles of roadway. The $12 million dollar project includes shoulder and striping upgrades.

#05 - Route 24 Grand River Bridge Emergency Response
When high water from heavy rainfall washed the dirt away from the concrete piers of the Grand River Bridge near Brunswick, quick action had to be taken. A $2.1 million dollar emergency contract was let to build cofferdam walls around each pier. The bridge closed to traffic on June 9 and reopened Aug. 13, two days early despite continued heavy rains through much of that time.

#04 - Completion of the Missouri River Bridge at Miami
An innovative solution for a $14.8 million dollar partial replacement of this river bridge closed the structure for 12 months. Exactly one year to the day later the bridge opened to traffic.

#03 - Safe and Sound Bridge Program - The district is making great progress on the Safe and Sound Program. We have crossed over the half-way mark and should have 47 bridges 62 percent completed by the end of the construction season.

#01 - New Franklin Parkway.
Top, the old Viaduct. Middle, the new Parkway complete with landscaping and lighting welcomes motorists into town. Bottom, a recycled bridge rail frames the entrance to the Katy Trail.

#02 - Completed U.S. Hwy 36
U.S. Hwy 36 is now a four-lane facility across the entire state. The 52 miles between Macon and Hannibal was partially funded by taxpayers in Macon, Marion, Monroe and Shelby Counties.

#01 - New Franklin Parkway
Another innovative solution removed a massive aging viaduct structure, replacing it with new pavement, curb, gutter and landscape. The bridge was 100 percent recycled on site, 8,500 tons of concrete from the bridge, and 120 feet of bridge rail. The project earned the State of Missouri Recycling Program 2010 Team Recycling Award, making this project #1 for 2010.

for more info

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Route 63
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Macon, MO 63552

D3 Northeast

13 Down, 66 To Go

With the opening of the Route NN bridge in Clark County last month, the Northeast District celebrated its last bridge completed this year on the Safe and Sound Bridge Program. "We have 13 down and 66 to go," said Northeast District Construction and Materials Engineer Macy Rodenbaugh.

The district is gearing up for next year's schedule of about 40 more bridges that will be rehabilitated or replaced. Part of that process will be informing area residents of the road closures and work in their areas.

"We have one bridge on Route E in Saverton that will require a bypass be built," Rodenbaugh said. He is working with the Safe and Sound team and the community relations department to inform area residents of the other 38 closures, most on minor roads. "We expect to have a lot of meetings, utilize e-mail, the website, message boards, media and mailings to get the word out, much like the other districts," he said.

Another Safe & Sound Bridge was completed last month over the North River just north Palmyra. Thirteen bridges have been completed in the Safe & Sound Bridge Program in northeast Missouri and about 40 are slated for work next year.

Mock Public Hearing Educates High School Seniors

In last month's *Connections*, the NE District featured the proposed design of a new interchange in Troy in which three roundabouts are included. In an effort to encourage future generations to get involved in the decision-making process about proposed transportation projects, MoDOT staff worked with Troy Buchanan High School to set up a mock public hearing. Students were guided through the process including registering, commenting, reviewing the design and asking questions. Twenty-seven seniors participated and most everyone agreed they learned something and found the process interesting.

Rick Domzalski, transportation project manager, and Nathan Briggs, right of way manager, explain the proposed interchange to students.

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Around the District

Frankford Maintenance Supervisor Roy Niemeyer recently was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for helping George Miller after he had fallen off of a load of hay onto the highway. His quick action and first aid training helped until an EMT arrived. Roy (left) is pictured with Mr. Miller and his wife.

During the fall meetings held in October, long-term safety awards were presented to employees who had at least 15 consecutive years of no loss-time incidents. Dave Silvester, assistant district engineer, presents Linley Lipper of our Luray facility with his award.

The Work Life Center went "on the road" for fall meetings to be available to employees for questions in their work units. Scotty Cockrell from our Wayland facility is asking Work Life Center Liaison Sharisse Nemes about some of the benefits.

Josh Waelder of Frankford and Jamie Gottman of Monroe City may have liked to play in the dirt and rocks when they were kids, but now they are helping MoDOT's recycling efforts with those skills. Crews used rock that had been blasted to make way for U.S. 61 and placed it under Spencer Creek to secure its bridge piers.

Army Veteran Gets His 11-Year Service Award

At this time last year, Brian Gard was not working on permits for MoDOT. Instead, he was serving his country in the Army National Guard in Afghanistan. Since he was "unavailable" to be recognized for his service to MoDOT last year, he was recognized at this year's service awards recognition. His "special" recognition was actually for 11 years of service with MoDOT.

Paula Gough, district engineer, (left) and Dave Silvester, assistant district engineer (right) presented Brian Gard with an 11-year service award, and thanked him for serving our country.

D4 KansasCityArea

Representatives from Blue Springs, Independence and the Fort Osage School District joined MoDOT to cut the ribbon on the needed improvements on Route 7.

Orange Cones Compete with Blue Ribbon

by Kerri Lewis

D4 continues the celebration at a record pace. Recently, more blue ribbons have replaced orange cones, showering the district. The message is clear, more major projects are now complete as the construction season winds down.

Warrensburg East Loop

Two years of construction culminated on Nov. 10 with the opening of the Route 13 East Loop. The new seven-mile-long two-lane highway moves through-traffic away from stop-and-go congestion in downtown Warrensburg.

The East Loop was celebrated by more than 50 people eager to see the new lanes open.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the opening of the south portion of the East Loop, from Veterans Road one-half mile north of Route 50 south to existing Route 13 near Route Y. The roadway establishes a new corridor for the community, shifting highway traffic away from schools and the University of Central Missouri campus. Ideker Inc. of St. Joseph was general contractor for the $27,153,932 project.

MoDOT continues to design the north leg of the Route 13 East Loop, which will extend north from the Route 50 interchange to connect with existing Route 13 three miles north of Warrensburg. Construction on that portion will begin in 2012.

Lexington Gap

The Route 13 "Gap Project" to relocate the highway south of Route 24 near Lexington is now complete and open to traffic.

This more than $7 million project has added three miles of new lanes to bridge the gap between Route 24 and the existing lanes of Route 13 to the south. The new addition will improve safety, increase mobility, decrease travel time and provide a convenient and economical north/south route.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 13 celebrated the job coming to an end. Missouri State Sen. Bill Stouffer, Missouri State Rep. Joe Aull, Lafayette County Commissioner James Strodtman, city officials, members from the Highway 13 Coalition and MoDOT cut the ribbon to celebrate improvements through the area.

Above, the new interchange will help bridge the gap, cutting six miles from many motorists' drive. To the right, Senator Stouffer applauded the new addition to the area.

Route 7

Nov. 10 marked another day to celebrate. Federal, state and local officials joined D4 to cut the blue ribbon for completed safety enhancements and roadway improvements along a busy section of Route 7.

The six-mile stretch of Route 7 between Independence and Blue Springs was identified as an area needing safety improvements. Studies show that this area has a higher than average accident rate. A partnership with the City of Independence and the Fort Osage School District allowed MoDOT to attribute more than $800,000 in safety funds to help minimize the number of accidents along this stretch of roadway.

Work in the area included an asphalt overlay with four-foot-wide paved shoulders. Edgeline and centerline rumble stripes were also added to improve safety. These grooved patterns in the road notify drivers in the event that the vehicle leaves the driving lane.

Several busy intersections have received wider lanes with the addition of new turn lanes and additional lighting.

These improvements have provided a smoother, safer drive for the more than 4,000 vehicles driving through the area. All work was completed by Ideker, Inc. for $2.4 million.

Lone Jack

Citizens in Lone Jack joined state and local elected officials on Nov. 9 to celebrate the opening of a full-diamond interchange at Route 50 and Bynum Road.

The $5.1 million project replaced the bridge over Route 50 and added ramps and two new lanes of westbound Route 50, eliminating the old westbound at-grade intersection. The bridge, lanes and ramp bring the crossroads to modern interchange standards and provide for safer local access in all directions. Existing at-grade intersections within the project limits were removed to enhance safety for both eastbound and westbound Route 50 motorists.

Up until now, westbound Route 50 traffic in Lone Jack was routed through a congested commercial and residential area, with an at-grade intersection with Route 150. Several severe accidents and fatalities have occurred at or near this intersection. Separating the westbound traffic by building a Route 150 bridge and ramps improves safety and moves Route 50 traffic more quickly.

Lone Jack city officials, residents and stakeholders urged MoDOT to consider a separated-grade interchange to improve safety. This project, within the Mid-America Regional Council's boundaries, drew strong support from other communities who recognized the value of this project. Federal officials provided ARRA funds to pay for these improvements.

Above, District Engineer Beth Wright explained the importance of MoDOT providing a safer route for the local community of Lone Jack. To the right, Congressman Cleaver thanked the partnerships formed to complete this job.

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D5 Central

Shared Four-Lane Highway Opens in Camden County

Over 250 people gathered on Oct. 19 to celebrate the completion of MoDOT's first shared four-lane highway on Route 5 in Camden County.

The new highway stretches for eight miles, from just north of Route 7 in Camdenton to just south of the Laclede County line.

While it will ease traffic flow and improve safety in the area, it also marks the first time MoDOT has constructed this innovative type of highway in the state.

The shared four-lane consists of alternating passing lanes every mile or two along a conventional two-lane highway. The passing lanes provide motorists with periodic opportunities to pass other vehicles without having to drive in the opposing lane.

Cathy Morrison

MoDOT trucks led a parade of vehicles along the new highway after the ceremony. About 30 Corvettes from a local club also participated in the parade.

"MoDOT has been working for years to improve the Route 5 corridor between Interstate 44 and the Lake of the Ozarks," said District Engineer Roger Schwartze at the ceremony.

"The construction on Route 5 has improved the region's transportation infrastructure, but it also means an investment in the economic development of the lake area, which has grown into a year-round tourism attraction."

U.S. Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond joined Schwartze and MoDOT Director Kevin Keith to celebrate the completion of the project.

Performances by the Camdenton High School marching band and a parade of vehicles at the end of the ceremony gave the community a chance to be a part of the event.

While this ceremony marked the completion of the Camden County portion of Route 5, MoDOT is working on another 10 miles of highway in Laclede County as well.

This portion of the shared four-lane is being built using the existing footprint of Route 5, with crews widening the roadway to accommodate the passing lanes. The Laclede County portion of Route 5 is expected to be complete in early 2011.

Cathy Morrison

The Mid-County Fire Protection District presented the flags for the ceremony.

Cathy Morrison

U.S. Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond joined other state and local officials to cut the ribbon for Route 5.

Students Discover Hands-On Experience Is the Best Way to Learn

Four students from Osage County's Fatima High School came to the Central District office on Oct. 27 to shadow our employees and learn a little bit about working for MoDOT.

The students spent the morning in the design division, getting an overview of the department from District Design Engineer Steve Engelbrecht before diving into life at MoDOT.

"These students were interested in civil engineering and drafting, so we wanted to give them a chance to see what it's really like," said Engelbrecht. "We assigned each one to a design squad to learn what each person does to complete projects for the district."

The students also met with the survey crew and then spent the afternoon with the district's traffic division.

"We showed them some traffic models for the U.S. 50/Route 179 interchange, and then took them out to the actual interchange," said Garrett Depue, traffic studies specialist. "It was a good way to show them how something goes from a concept on a computer screen to reality."

Scott Smith

District Design Engineer Steve Engelbrecht talks to students from Fatima High School about becoming an engineer at MoDOT.

Spending the day shadowing employees is a great way for students to learn about a career at MoDOT, and the response from the students was very positive. One student's letter of thanks stated that he "enjoyed every second of it" and hopes to come back for more job shadowing or even a college-level internship.

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District Meets New Goal for Charitable Campaign

District Engineer Roger Schwartze challenged every employee in the Central District to dig deep to help others during this year's charitable campaign fundraising program. But it wasn't a request that came without a reward. If the district employees raised at least $10,000, Schwartze promised to shave his head.

Holly Dentner

It didn't take long for District Engineer Roger Schwartze's hair to disappear after making good on his promise to shave his head for the charitable campaign.

Last year district employees raised about $7,000. This year, the grand total for the district was $16,000 for the charitable organizations in Missouri. A 122 percent increase from the previous year proved district employees were more than willing to help those in need.

Schwartze was also true to his word, and at 11:30 a.m. on Nov. 4, his head was shaved bald by senior human resources technician Debbie Redel.

"I am truly humbled to work with a group of such generous public servants," said Schwartze. "The many organizations and charities in central Missouri will certainly be better off due to your generosity."

Approximately $14,700 was donated by employees through one-time contributions or payroll deductions. The district's activity committee also organized several fundraisers over the last few months to raise the rest.

D6
St. Louis Area

Missouri Interchange Project Opportunity Fair

Representatives from St. Louis region disadvantaged business enterprise firms got the opportunity to meet with prospective construction contractors interested in bidding on the Interstate 70 Missouri Interchange, a part of the Mississippi River Bridge project during a DBE Opportunity Fair held in late October. The fair gave the DBE firms the opportunity to describe their companies and start building a relationship with those contractors who may be building the interchange. MoDOT will take bids on the interchange project early next year.

Some DBE opportunities available on this project are: demolition, pavement, material supplier, recycled materials, earthwork, trucking, drainage, masonry, traffic controls, miscellaneous concrete, utilities, landscaping, steel fabrication/steel supply, steel erection, painting.

Greg Horn, director of the Mississippi River Bridge project, (left) discusses remaining projects on the Interstate 70 Missouri Interchange.

Randy Hitt (right), deputy project director of the Mississippi River Bridge project, discusses the skills and DBE opportunities available on this project.

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2010 Service Awards

5 Years with MoDOT

James Antonacci, Anthony Archer, Jeffery Baird, Douglas Borgmann, Jeremy Brown, Margaret Bruns, Glenn Copeland, Nicholas Correnti, Todd Dettling, Mark Fresen, Paula Fuhro, Michael Hagen, Jason Ivie, Kristina Jordan, Terry Keehn, Nicole Kreisel, Dwayne Lachance, Melinda Lawrence, Martin Lefholz, Gerald Lyston, Sara Nelson, Michael Parker, Barry Perkins, Chad Pillow, Joseph Pinson, Robert Soderblom, Waldo Thompson, Daniel Trunk, Franklin Vance, Kenneth Wich, Lee Williams.

10 Years with MoDOT

Jason Bell, William Bernsen, Donald Bouse, Thomas Breedlove, Dennis Brown, David Brunjes, Laura Campbell, Sally Cox, Robert Creamer, Roy Crites, Gail Cutts, Randy Dorner, Daniel Friel, Keith Harangozo, Robert Hardin, Donald Harmon, Thomas Harris, Christopher Hohowski, Johnny Holland, Julie Jeffery, Kenneth Jenkins, Phillip Jones, Jack Kratky, Lisa Kuntz, Jerry Lewis, Westly Mcpeters, Bennetez Meeks, Michael Mills, Dennis Murphy, Kevin Ogden, Jeremy Overkamp, Janet Rath, Jerry Ray, Steven Richards, Shelby Rowland, Andre Saddler, Michael Shanks, Roy Shoemaker, Wesley Stephen, Christina Stroyan, Terry Talley, Andrew Tuerck, David Warden, Kurt Wengert, Stanley Williams, Thomas Witte.

15 Years with MoDOT

Michael Abernathy, Jeffrey Bohler, David Brown, Curtis Dunakey, Donna Fissell, Gary Gerlemann, Leon Johnson, Richard Jones, William Kaeshamer, Donald Maxwell, Ronald Mize, Christine Redhage, Phillip Ruffus, Richard Shryock, Charlotte Stewart, John Stumberg, Alton Thomas, Deanna Venker, Scotty Ward.

D7 Southwest

Signals Devices Benefit Motorists, Personnel

by Wendy Brunner-Lewis

The high-tech gadgets recently installed by District 7 Signals benefit both motorists and the Signals electricians. The gadgets include remotely programmable school flashers, signal battery back-up units and an adaptive traffic signal system.

Wendy Brunner-Lewis

The solar, programmable school flashers were installed this school year at the district's more remote locations in Appleton City, Liberal, Lakeland, Osceola, Dadeville, Exeter, Noel, Shell Knob, Stockton and Washburn.

"Since we can see on the manufacturer's web site if a flasher is working, or what exactly it's doing or not doing, we don't have to drive two hours one way to check it out," said Traffic Supervisor Ken Black. "It really saves on overtime and time spent driving."

And since the flashers are solar powered, it saves on the electricity costs to the schools.

Signal Battery Back-up Units

The signal battery back-up units are just now being installed on high-volume and high-speed roads and near railroad tracks. Two that are already installed are in Joplin: one on Main Street and one on Range Line Road.

"These units will run on batteries for about three days," Black said. "If the power goes out where these units are installed, people won't even notice anything different. It'll be seamless to where the batteries automatically kick in."

Adaptive Traffic Signal System

Range Line Road, Joplin's busiest thoroughfare, was upgraded to an adaptive traffic signal system this fall (photo below). The system works in conjunction with other intersections on Range Line to keep traffic flowing.

The system is also installed on the three new signals along 7th Street in Joplin, which were activated in November. Seventh Street was recently upgraded to four lanes and a center turn lane, center medians were added at some intersections and the new traffic signals were installed.

Wendy Brunner-Lewis

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Work Around the District

Don Boultinghouse

The Greenfield crew wrapped up their fogseal projects in October. Jasper County Route NN/37 was one of the last routes of the season.

Becky's Job Shadow Experience

by Wendy Brunner-Lewis

In an effort for district senior management to better understand maintenance employees' concerns, District Engineer Becky Baltz started a job shadowing program. Each senior management team member spends a day with employees in a maintenance building doing the employees' job and then reports what they did and learned during a management team meeting.

Becky's turn came in October when she spent the day with the Cassville Maintenance crew. Below are pictures of her experience.

Bryan Ozbun

Becky Baltz weed eats around a sign during her job shadow with Cassville Maintenance.

Bryan Ozbun

Becky Baltz and Senior Maintenance Worker Jimmy Cotton load up a dead deer.

D8

Springfield Area

D8 at Work

1. Mowing along Route 65 near Cross Timbers are Wheatland Maintenance Worker Mike Miller, foreground, followed by Preston Senior Maintenance Worker Randy Garrison and Wheatland Maintenance Worker Shea Shaddox.

2. Springfield Senior Construction Inspector Matt Willard checks grades before the roadway is paved approaching the new Route 125 bridge over the James River between Rogersville and Strafford.

3. Driving her vintage VW Beetle, longtime McCraw's Ford area resident Elizabeth Guthery helps "cut" a ribbon to open the new James River bridge on Route 125.

4. Rogersville city and Webster County officials and MoDOT staff dedicate a project adding turn lanes on Routes B and VV at Route 60 in Rogersville.

Road Users Revved Up At Completion of Projects

by Bob Edwards

The Indianapolis 500 it was not. Nor was a NASCAR driver in sight. But the opening of a new Route 125 bridge over the James River in rural eastern Greene County brought out the motorhead in several longtime neighborhood residents who wanted to be among the first to drive across.

And that's all Assistant District Engineer Matt Seiler needed as he presided over a mid-November dedication of the new, wider two-lane structure. The $1.3-million project was built under the Safe and Sound program.

"I probably will never be invited to say this at a regular NASCAR race. ... Ladies and Gentlemen, start your engines," Seiler said.

With that, a line of cars and trucks moved forward. A ribbon stretched across both lanes was "cut" by the first vehicle. It was a vintage VW Beetle driven by Elizabeth Guthery, 82, with Kenneth Bodenhamer, 87, in the passenger seat. Both have lived near the crossing, once known as McCraw's Ford, for most of their lives.

The Route 125 project is one of several partly or totally completed and presented to the public to use in the waning days of 2010. Among them was the opening of the new northbound Route 65-to-westbound Route 60 "flyover" ramp as part of the Route 60/65 reconstruction in Springfield.

Also completed recently was a project to build turn lanes and upgrade traffic signals on Webster County Route B/VV at Route 60, a busy Rogersville intersection. The new Route 76/Business Route 65 bridge over Lake Taneycomo between Branson and Hollister was scheduled to open to traffic, and the existing historic bridge closed for rehabilitation through 2011.

Numerous other projects were completed earlier in 2010. They include completing the four-lane corridor along Route 65 between Springfield and Buffalo, relocating of northbound Route 13 in southern Polk County, rebuilding the Route 60/National Avenue interchange as a diverging diamond interchange and replacing the decks on two more Safe and Sound bridges – Greene County Route UU over Clear Creek near Bois D'Arc and Laclede County Route A/C over I-44 at Phillipsburg.

"We've been kicking out these projects really fast," District Engineer Kirk Juranas said of the work going on in recent years. "It's been a heck of a run."

Juranas credits work done by District 8 employees in engineering and construction-related departments. He also pointed to efforts by Maintenance striving to improve the district's lower volume roads, including "some of the best chip-seals we've ever done." The district, he said, is "crankin' out quality work."

Several big projects under construction will continue into 2011, including the Route 60/65 reconstruction and Route 65 six-laning, both in Springfield. Significant new projects will begin, including widening of Route 13 between Branson West and Kimberling City and replacing the westbound I-44 bridge over the Gasconade River east of Lebanon. More work is coming in the region, thanks in large part to ongoing partnerships with many communities.

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Being There For Co-Workers

by Angela Eden

Three District 8 employees earned MoDOT Certificates of Appreciation for jumping in quickly to help co-workers during medical emergencies.

■ Dora Maintenance Supervisor Shawn Shipley and Senior Maintenance Worker Andy Boyd, June 29, 2010: While Boyd and a co-worker were mowing, Boyd's co-worker was stung by an insect and had an allergic reaction. Boyd took the man to a nearby Boyd family member's air-conditioned home hoping relief from the heat would help. Boyd alerted Shipley who called an ambulance. Boyd drove the stricken employee to meet the ambulance, reducing the time needed for him to receive treatment. The employee made a full recovery.

■ Transportation Project Designer Mark Mais, Aug. 12, 2010: Mais went to a co-worker's home after the employee failed to report to work and could not be reached by phone. Mais entered the house by squeezing underneath a partly raised garage door and found the co-worker lying in his bed very ill. Mais called 9-1-1 for prompt medical assistance. The employee was stabilized, recovered after a hospital stay and is back at work.

Shipley, Boyd and Mais received their awards from District Engineer Kirk Juranas during a district Senior Management Team meeting Oct. 26.

"Talkin' Transportation" Call-In Radio Show

KWTO 560 AM, Springfield

10-10:50 a.m. Wednesdays

radiospringfield.com

D9
SouthCentral

Director Kevin Keith Visits With D9 Employees

Director Kevin Keith completed his statewide district visits with District 9 on Nov. 8. More than 75 employees were on hand to listen to Keith discuss our five-year direction, Practical Operations and the state of benefits for employees.

Keith began the discussion by talking with employees about some of the challenges facing MoDOT in the coming years, with declines in funding and the downturn in the economy. He told attendees that he wants to make sure that employees across the state have a good sense of what the five-year direction is and understand it.

Next, Kevin spoke in-depth about each of the five primary goals of the five-year direction:

- Honor our commitments.
- Keep major roads in good condition.
- Improve minor roads.
- Hold our own on bridges.
- Provide outstanding customer service.

Keith emphasized that honoring our commitments is about more than completing the projects promised in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program. "If you tell Joe you are going to fix his driveway next Wednesday, guess what? You just made a commitment. You'd better go fix Joe's driveway next Wednesday, or, he better know why you can't. Those kinds of commitments are just as important to us as the big projects are," said Keith.

Director Kevin Keith asks employees about the goals of the five-year direction.

Keith also asked the crowd to define what providing outstanding customer service means to them. Although he agreed with the answers given, Keith defined providing outstanding customer service more simply as: try to help.

"When someone takes the time to pick up a phone to call you, it's probably pretty important to them. We ought to let them know we listened. Those folks calling in are not nuisances or problems. They are our customers and they pay us," said Keith.

Keith concluded the discussion by explaining why the combined five areas constitute our five-year direction. He told employees that it is simply the right thing to do, to focus the resources we have on our first priorities: keeping our existing roads and bridges in good condition. He also explained that he believes focusing on these areas is the right strategy to position MoDOT to be a positive in the ongoing conversation about the investment in transportation funding.

Keith also addressed Practical Operations and said that he wants to make sure employees understand that, although we are being more efficient with our funds, we're still going to do a good job. "When you do work – do good work. As long as it looks good and rides good when you leave it, I don't have any problem. I don't care what someone tells you, I don't care how hard you think we're trying to save money – do good work. I'd just as soon you don't work on that road if you won't do a good job. Don't quit that job until it looks good and rides good," said Keith.

At the conclusion of the meeting, employees asked Kevin about his career, hobbies and how he liked his job as Director so far. "I'm on day three. Day one and two were a blur, but it's good to have that process behind us. I feel honored the commission has chosen me to do that. We have a good team in place. I'm going to love it," said Keith.

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Employees Honored for Years of Service

District 9 Employees with 20, 25, and 30 years of service with MoDOT were honored at the 2010 Service Award Banquet held at Miller's Grill in Houston, Mo. on Nov. 4.

Employees with 20 years of service, left to right: Kelly Smith, Doug Garner, Joe Bollinger, Mike Wake, Tom Rutledge, Leowen Earls, Jason Basham, Don Evans, Mike Roberts and Mark Rhoades

Honored for 25 years of service, left to right: Lonnie Chambers, Roger Christensen, Tom Ryan, Wayne Richter, Rockey Martin, Pam Griffin, Bob Ringeisen,Eddie Cole, Jim Clark, George Allen and David Prock

D10 Southeast

MoDOT Director Kevin Keith presents Senior Construction Inspector Brent Swan with a certificate of appreciation for saving the life of a co-worker.

Swan Saves D10 Co-Worker

What started out as a normal day for Senior Construction Inspector Brent Swan quickly turned into anything but ordinary.

Swan began his day by going to his co-worker's house so they could carpool to work. However, he quickly noticed something was wrong; his co-worker's speech was slurred. He watched as his co-worker went to retrieve his mug of coffee.

"I noticed he had a limp, and his speech had become even more slurred," said Swan. "At first, he wanted to go into work, but I didn't give him an option."

Swan rushed his co-worker to the nearest emergency room.

"From the CPR training I received through MoDOT, I was familiar with the signs of a stroke," he said.

At the hospital, it was determined the employee had suffered a stroke that morning.

Swan's quick thinking played a vital role in the health of his co-worker, who is now healthy and back to work.

"I just hope someone would do the same for me if I was in that situation," added Swan.

MoDOT Director Kevin Keith presented Swan with a Certificate of Appreciation for Extraordinary Action and Ensuring the Safety of Others.

You Are Invited!

Employee Association Hosts Event Dec. 17

The Chapter 10 Transportation Employees Association invites all present members and their guest and all gold card members and their guest to "Sparkle, Shine & Glitter" the night away with them on Dec. 17. It will be held at the Sikeston Elks Club, 349 Dona Street. The evening starts with registration at 7 p.m., followed by a meal, door prizes and a dance. Current employees wishing to attend who are not members, can join that night. RSVP is required by Dec. 10, please call 573-472-5372. Cash bar will be available.

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New Director's First Stop is District 10

Nearly 100 D10 employees had the opportunity to welcome MoDOT's new director Kevin Keith during his recent Southeast District visit.

At the meeting, Keith discussed the Five-Year Direction, presented District Engineer Mark Shelton with a 25-year service award and fielded questions from employees.

He provided employees with an update on where we are with implementing the direction and thanked them for doing their part to make it work.

Additionally, Keith talked about changes to our medical and retirement plans and deferred compensation.

Keith acknowledged employees' frustrations and promised to look into any concerns during his new role as director.

To view the questions and answers from D10's employee meeting with Keith, please visit *http://wwwi/intranet/kevins5yrdirection.htm*.

Facility Operations Crew Worker Henry McCoy discusses empowerment and future job opportunities with Director Kevin Keith.

MoDOT Director Kevin Keith explains the importance of the five-year direction to D10 employees.

2010 Service Awards

5-Year Recipients

20-Year Recipients

10-Year Recipients

25-Year Recipients

15-Year Recipients

Connections

The mission of *Connections* is to be a monthly source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide. It is distributed to MoDOT employees and retirees.

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Additional copies are available upon request. Suggestions, questions and comments are always welcome.

Please share this publication and recycle it after reading.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

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That's a Winner!

Doesn't it feel great to play on the winning team? Team MoDOT recently brought home a number of AASHTO awards worth bragging about:

- The Interstate 64 reconstruction project in St. Louis was recognized as the best transportation project in the country when it was selected as the 2010 America s Transportation Awards Grand Prize Winner. I-64 was the largest highway project in MoDOT's history and it was completed one month early and $11 million under budget.
- The first diverging diamond interchange in the nation won the Francis B. Francois Award for Innovation. The award recognizes a project that establishes, increases, or enhances value to the public. MoDOT opened its first DDI at the intersection of Route 13 and Interstate 44 in Springfield in June 2009. The interchange allows traffic to move faster, reduces congestion, increases safety and saves money.
- Director Kevin Keith received the President's Transportation Award for Administration. The award recognizes exemplary service and contributions that impact transportation regionally or nationwide. Keith was recognized for implementing Practical Design.
- The Realty to Roads program received the Gold Performance Excellence Award from the 2010 AASHTO Standing Committee on Performance Management. The award recognized the program for meeting the highest standards of quality, service and performance.
- The Performance Management committee also gave us a silver award for our efforts to engage customers through social media, such as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and our blog.

Congratulations to all those involved in these winning efforts!

The New I-64 in St. Louis

Diverging Diamond Interchange in Springfield

Get your car ready for winter

by Matt Hiebert

Got a minute 40 seconds? Then you've got time to learn how to winterize your car. A video on MoDOT's YouTube site gives a quick rundown of the most important things you can do to get your car ready for winter.

From tires, to antifreeze, to what to pack for an emergency, you can glean the highlights of preparedness with the click of a mouse.

Some of the tips include:

- Check your tire pressure and tread condition
- Make sure your antifreeze is at proper levels

- Inspect the oil level and windshield wiper fluid
- Pack a small emergency kit in case of the unexpected

Go to *http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_gr4edpf0b8* to start getting your car ready for winter.